

NO CHANGE IN CLASS

RECLASSIFIED

CLASS CHANGED TO: TS

DATE 12-21-79

AUTH: HR 70-2

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REVIEWED

NSC BRIEFING

2 April 1959

WATCH COMMITTEE ASSESSMENT OF ISRAELI MOBILIZATION

25X1

- I. Israeli mobilization, announced at 1900 GMT 1 April recalling "all reserves" to report for duty was followed two hours later by UAR order to personnel of First (Syrian) Army to report to their units.
 - A. A later Israeli order ordered reserves of three units to report by 1700, 2 April. By 2100, Israeli officials were describing call-up as limited and routine and that no importance should be attached.
 - B. The Syrian recall appears to be a direct reaction to the Israeli order.
- II. No preliminary mobilization measures, such as vehicle requisitioning, have been observed and there have been no unusual recent border incidents.
 - A. Only specific current source of tension is recent Egyptian seizures of cargoes of Israeli-chartered ships.
 - B. Israel known to be concerned over a US-Nasir rapprochement and possible UAR action against Qasim.
- III. Watch Committee sees following possible explanations for the Israeli order:
 - A. Mobilization exercise. (Most likely)
 - B. Demonstration of readiness for action as a pressure tactic.
 - C. A true reaction to info unknown to us of real or suspected impending changes in situations along Israeli borders.
 - D. Preparation for possible military action. (Least likely)
- IV. Whatever the purpose, the Israeli and Syrian orders can raise Israeli-UAR tensions.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

OVERNIGHT DEVELOPMENTS

1. Tel Aviv Radio at 0500 GMT 2 April announced that the order was "only a maneuver to test the mobilization speed of the units."

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